



Virginia Annual Conference  
The Second Annual Lay Servant Academy  
34<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Lay Speaker Training  
Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center  
February 24-26, 2012



**Engaging – Equipping – Empowering**

**Our Purpose: to create a culture of call by engaging, equipping, and empowering people so that they might effectively partner with each other and their pastors to live out God's call as they lead the church in transforming the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**In addition to the assortment of 18 different choices of the familiar courses found at the Lay Servant Academy, we are offering four new features.**

1. **24 Mini-Courses** in a wide range of specialties and interests that are designed to be appetizers for different topics to be explored by the Laity. Taking 5 classes will count this year towards advanced certification. **Anyone interested can take one or more courses just for the interest in the topic.** Several courses can be explored at the first class and you can stay for the full course. For a full weekend you can take up to six classes. This format will also allow Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday participation only. **Open to anyone interested in one or more topics.**
2. To encourage participation and be in support of younger families or parents, there will be child care on **site** for infants and toddlers staffed by nearby local churches. Include the request before January 20th
3. There will be fewer speakers and general sessions. The increased time realized will be used by **two different music groups playing three times during the weekend.** The increased time will also be utilized for District Meetings during the day rather than the end of a full day of class work.
4. The **new course "Understanding Men's Ministry"** will be offered for the first time in Virginia as an advanced lay speakers course. And as with all our classes, everyone is invited to attend, not just United Methodist Men. The guidance given in this class is easily transferrable to a person in any leadership role. Open to anyone.

This year we will have the high caliber instructors that you have come to expect at the annual training. We also will feature six top staff members from the Conference Office. Also joining us are key staff members and leaders from four national and international organizations. Participating as lecturers and presenters this weekend are also delegates to the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the General Conference.

**Lobby**  
**Presentations**

**Industrial and Commercial Ministries**

*"a caring presence" in America's places of work*

**Society of St. Andrew**

**Gleaning America's Fields ~ Feeding America's Hungry**

**Contact your District Director or Conference Lay Speaking Director for more information**

Link for the Directors on the Virginia Conference Website

<http://www.vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=807>

Lay Servant Academy Director, David Bailey at [dw.bailey@comcast.net](mailto:dw.bailey@comcast.net) or 804-338-3168

**Reminder: Cokesbury bookstore is no longer open at Blackstone. If required, order your text before you arrive.**

**Lay Servant Academy Invitation February 24-26, 2012**

## Tentative Schedule

Friday	4:00	5:45	Registration
	5:45	6:30	Dinner
	6:45	7:00	Announcements
	7:00	8:15	Music Dust and Ashes
	7:15	9:15	The Basic Class and Understanding Men's Ministry begin Friday evening
Saturday	7:00	7:45	Breakfast
	7:15	7:45	Registration
	8:00	11:30	Class Session 1
	11:45	12:30	Lunch
	12:45	1:15	Engaging – Equipping – Empowering Our Laity Shirley Cauffman, Conference Lay Leader, Where Will You Serve? Marc Brown, Director of Connectional Ministry
	1:15	2:00	Music – Dust and Ashes
	2:15	4:15	Class Session 2
	4:30	5:15	District Meetings
	5:30	6:15	Dinner
	6:30	8:30	Class Session 3
	8:30	9:30	Refreshments in Dining Hall / Coffee House Music – Uncharted Waters
Sunday	7:00	7:45	Breakfast
	7:45	8:15	Move Out Time
	8:15	10:45	Class Session 4
	11:00	12:30	Commitment Service – Rev. John Vest, James River District Superintendent Communion Celebrant – Rev. Bert Cloud, Sycamore Charge Music – Rev. Tom Page, Dust and Ashes Commitment Leader – Johnnie Draughon, Director of Lay Speaking
	12:45	1:30	Lunch

## **Mini-Course Sessions**

Friday 7:15 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 6:30 PM

Sunday 8:15 AM

*Mini-Courses like the regular courses are open to anyone. This is no requirement to stay for the meals or overnight. Just \$6 per mini-course. The goal is to get you interested in a topic that will help engage, equip, and empower Laity. We encourage everyone to share in what is the most uplifting spiritual environment of the Lay Servant Academy*

## **Lay Servant Academy Mini Courses**

Choose one class per time period and enter that letter on the registration form (last page)

- A. Friday – 7:15 PM - What Engages Youth/Young Adults: Leader – Andrew Ware
- B. Friday – 7:15 PM - Social Media: Leader – Neill Caldwell
- C. Friday – 7:15 PM - From Your Heart to Theirs: Leader – Adam Hall

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- D. Saturday – 8:00 AM - Clowning: Leader - Carol Sanger
- E. Saturday – 8:00 AM Prison Ministry: What to Expect: Leader - Louise Jennings
- F. Saturday – 8:00 AM An Accessible Faith: Leader – Martha Stokes
- G. Saturday – 8:00 AM Social Media: Leader – Neill Caldwell
- H. Saturday – 8:00 AM Visitation: Leader – Rev. Teresa Keezel

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- I. Saturday – 10:00 AM Fishing from the Right Side of the Boat: Leader – Rev. Marc Brown
- J. Saturday – 10:00 AM Inclusiveness: Leader – Martha Stokes
- K. Saturday – 10:00 AM Industrial and Commercial Ministries: Leader – Rev. Wayne Wright
- L. Saturday – 10:00 AM Journaling Your Prayers: Leader - Jane Joyner
- M. Saturday – 10:00 AM New Faith Communities All Things New: Leader – Rev. Mark Ogren
- N. Saturday – 10:00 AM Audio and Visual Technology: Leader – Andrew Ware

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- O. Saturday – 2:00 PM Call to Action: Leader – Rev. Mark Ogren
- P. Saturday – 2:00 PM What Engages Youth/Young Adults: Leader – Andrew Ware
- Q. Saturday – 2:00 PM Guitar in Church: Leader – Rev. Sung Woon Yoo
- R. Saturday – 2:00 PM More Than Leading a Meeting: Leader – Martha Stokes

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- S. Saturday – 6:00 PM The Society of St. Andrew's: Leader – Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore
- T. Saturday – 6:00 PM Blackboard Technology: Leader – Andrew Ware
- U. Saturday – 6:00 PM From Your Heart to Theirs: Leader – Adam Hall

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- V. Sunday – 8:45 AM Mission and Justice: Leader – Rev. Glen Rowley
- W. Sunday – 8:45 Considering the Ministry: Leader – Beth Downs
- X. Sunday – 8:45 Spreading the Word One Bible at a Time: Leader – Richard Wilkes

## MINI – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- A. What Engages Youth/Young Adults: For most of our Churches, the youth have always been the "future", but are more often thought of as something secondary and often get dropped by churches because they see it as something that is not thriving. Instead of getting rid of them or downsize them we just need to adapt our programs to bring youth what they like while bringing them the Bible at the same time. In this course there will be suggestions on programs to offer to youth and young adults and how we also need to invite them in as a hospitable community \*  
Leader – Andrew Ware
- B. Social Media: Fearful of Facebook? Terrified of Twitter? Social media is an effective new means of communicating the message of the Christ's church, the *original* social network. It can be another new tool on your church's evangelism belt. The workshop will look at some of the more popular social networks and how churches can make use of them.\*  
Leader – Neill Caldwell
- C. From Your Heart to Theirs, Delivering a Strong Message for Laity as a devotion or sermon \* Leader –  
Adam Hall
- D. Clowning: Come and experience the exciting ministry of clowns! Learn some of the simple and effective methods of presenting your message. If you want to continue more in-depth, stay for the whole ten hours. If you've ever wanted to paint your face, put on oversized shoes, outrageous outfits; and share your love of Christ, come and join Carol for a fun filled weekend! TEXT: No text required. Bring your imagination \* Leader - Carol Sanger
- E. Prison Ministry-What to Expect: There is something in prison ministry for all laity to get involved in, showing how a Christian can care for those in jail. Find out how you can minister without going behind the walls. \*  
Leader - Louise Jennings
- F. An Accessible Faith: Recognizing Barriers for People with Disabilities: Does your church building and ministries create barriers that prevent all people from being a part of the Body of Christ to the fullest extent possible? Two decades after the sweeping Americans with Disabilities Act threw open the doors of workplaces, schools and other institutions to people with disabilities, disability activists say that religious entities have been less responsive because they are exempt from most of the act's requirements. This session will include a basic look at areas of disability, accessibility of facilities, assessment of church needs, and information about Commission on Disability grants for building modifications and new programs. \* Leader – Martha Stokes
- G. Social Media Leader \* Neill Caldwell
- H. Visitation: Relationships continue to be the building blocks of our community. One on one, we get to know each other. We grow in love and understanding. In our time together we will talk about different types of visitation and we will explore facets of the old question: 'How is it with your soul?' \* Leader – Rev. Teresa Keezel
- I. Fishing from the Right Side of the Boat - Tired of fishing on the wrong side of the boat? Based on the resurrection story of Jesus instructing his disciples to fish on the right side of the boat in John 21:1-14, this workshop will help congregational leaders to understand the dynamics of congregational life that affect current and future ministry. \* Leader – Rev. Marc Brown
- J. Inclusiveness: Inclusiveness refers not just to diversity, but full and meaningful participation. Congregations can model inclusiveness by building a culture of love and justice for women and men of all races, ages, cultures, ability levels, and backgrounds. This workshop will explore behaviors and attitudes toward inclusiveness and how we can become a church that values and empowers all persons for full participation in the church and community \* Leader – Martha Stokes
- K. ICM-Industrial & Commercial Ministries trains and places volunteer Christian Chaplains in workplaces in local communities. ICM Chaplains are an outreach mission of the local church serving as "a caring presence" and sharing God's love with working men & women. \* Leader – Rev. Wayne Wright
- L. Journaling Your Prayers: Learn to weave Bible verses, favorite hymns, and prayers in times of sorrow and joy; concerns for friends and family, and personal insights into a resource for your faith walk. \* Leader - Jane Joyner

- M. New Faith Communities All Things New is a core strategy to help the Virginia Conference live into its vision of “having faith communities where all God’s people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.” This workshop will explore how the All Things New strategy began, what has happened since its approval at our 2008 Annual Conference and what is happening in our Virginia Conference Churches related to All Things New. \* Leader – Rev. Mark Ogren
- N. Audio and Visual Technology in churches now-a-days is becoming a point of whether or not people want to stay at a church. Whether people want to believe it or not people are constantly making judgments about a church just by audio's and visual's heard and shown in church. In this class I will discuss what sort of audio/video need to know you need to know and how A/V systems can be used in churches. Leader – Andrew Ware
- O. Call to Action: In January 2010 the Call to Action Steering Committee was formed to gather data, including a mandate to seek an objective operational assessment of the Connection that will result in findings and recommendations leading to the re-ordering of the life of the Church. A massive amount of data was collected from 32,000 congregations which resulted in 5 key recommendations, identified four key drivers of vitality and identified 14 attributes of pastoral leadership. This workshop will present a summary of the Call to Action Report and then carefully examine the key recommendations. \* Leader – Rev. Mark Ogren
- P. What Engages Youth/Young Adults \* Leader – Andrew Ware
- Q. Guitar in Church: In this rapidly changing world, even in church, people see, want, and need changes. As a symbol of change in church, there is more use of guitar and contemporary music. In this class we will sing and learn songs and talk about how we can be ready for changes in terms of “culture and Christ”. \* Leader – Rev. Sung Woon Yoo
- R. More Than Leading a Meeting: The church council has the primary responsibility for creating and sustaining the congregation’s plan for discipleship. Thus, the council chair has a much larger role of the disciple-making process than just providing leadership for scheduled Council meetings. This workshop will provide an orientation to the position, focusing on the 7 core responsibilities of the chair. \* Leader – Martha Stokes
- S. The Society of St. Andrew – Gleaning America's Fields ~ Feeding America's Hungry - Since 1979, the Society of St. Andrew has worked to fulfill the mandate of the gospel in our lives by striving to adhere to the words of I John 3:18: *Let us love not only in words, but in deed and in truth.* \* Leader – Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore
- T. Blackboard Technology, Blackboard is a tool used by learning institutions to keep a good communication between teachers and students as well as with administration. In this course I can offer some insight on what implanting a program as such into a church and where it would fit in. \* Leader – Andrew Ware
- U. From Your Heart to Theirs, Delivering a Strong Message for Laity as a devotion or sermon \* Leader – Adam Hall
- V. Mission and Justice: What takes place at the intersection of the call to serve God’s people in mission and addressing injustice locally, nationally and globally? We will look at the biblical mandates as well as the historical United Methodist understanding of our theological and missiological tasks as well as our Social Principles. \* Leader – Rev. Glen Rowley
- W. Considering the Ministry: Considering a call to ministry? Is your heart tugging you to listen to God to serve in the church in some way, either in pastoral ministry or specialized ministry? Come and learn about the options and process for ministry in the United Methodist Church including professionally certified lay person, certified lay minister, licensed local pastor, or ordained clergy. \* Leader – Beth Downs
- X. Spreading the Word One Bible at a Time: The Gideons and the rest of their story. The Gideons Do more than pace scriptures in hotels and motels. The Gideons want to be a part of every Protestant and Evangelical church’s mission teams by providing copies of God’s Word in more than 190 countries in more than 90 different languages. Learn how you and your church can help spread the Word and bring boys and girls men and women around the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. \* Leader – Richard Wilkes

# Full (10 Hour) Course Listing

(Register by Number)

## 1. The Basic Course

If you are a chairperson, committee member, teacher, congregational leader or in the process of discerning ways that you might be a servant leader, you are encouraged to take this introductory course and overview of United Methodism. In this basic course, you can begin the process of recognizing and employing your spiritual gifts for the church empowering you to use them as God intended. You will discover the importance of being a servant leader, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices and being part of a group that holds members accountable in discipleship. Best practices for church leaders are the focus of this course and you will explore the various ministries in which lay speakers provide leadership. This class starts Friday night.

*Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course Participant's Guide* by Sandy Jackson. You will need a Bible and bring along **UM Hymnal, UM Book of Worship and the UM Discipline**. (You are encouraged to borrow the hymnal, **Book of Worship & Discipline** if you do not have one of your own.)

- a. Basic Course – Vicki Poindexter
- b. Basic Course – Bill Walker
- c. Basic Course – Frances Craig
- d. Basic Course – Mary Ann Hawkins

*Something that is mentioned by students after completing the basic course is how much more they know about the United Methodist Church. We are proud of our denomination and after taking the Basic course you'll understand the connectionalism of Methodism all over the world. Now that anyone can take courses for information and education and not be concerned about accreditation, we promote it to those that want to know more about Methodism..... Bill Walker, York River District Co-Director of Lay Speaking Ministries*

## 2. This Holy Mystery

We come to Communion seeking to nourish our spiritual hunger, but what is happening as we share this meal together? Actually, United Methodists believe that there is a lot happening with God, with our community and within ourselves. This course invites you to a deeper experience of the divine grace made available through this sacrament and to help you share this experience with others. TEXT: *This Holy Mystery – A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion* by Gayle Carlton Felton

Leader– Rev. Bert Cloud

## 3. Bible for Lay Ministers

The heart of this course will be an overview of each book in the Bible with an eye toward what it means for lay speaking. Too often we reuse familiar parts of the scriptures and we overlook the rich materials that are found in the less familiar places. You will learn how to consider verses within the context of a book and each book within the context of the Bible as a whole.

Leaders - Rev. Dr. Mike Browder and Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore

## 4. Interpretive Bible Reading

Interpretive reading is the effective communication of thoughts and or feelings of an author to the listener. The reader should draw meaning from the selection to share with the audience. The course is designed for liturgists, bible readers, or devotion presenters for small and large groups. Also explores the techniques for interpretive reading for the individual. Text: Bible

Leader– Norma Townsley

## 5. Bible Teaching Aids

Participants will learn how to study the Bible in order to gain the greatest understanding of the written word, to encounter the living God in the words of the Bible, and to discover new insights that will enable them to be more effective leaders of Bible study. Text: William Barclay. *Introducing the Bible*

Leader – Rev. Tom Bryant

## 6. Survey of Apologetics

There are many believers and skeptics who have questions about logic, philosophy, science and truth related to Christianity. These questions are often stumbling blocks to faith and belief. We will identify the most common questions asked and attempt to answer questions including: Can we know God exist? Is the Bible reliable and true? How can a loving God allow evil? Are all religions paths to know God? Text: *Holman Quick Source Guide to Christian Apologetics* by Doug Powell. The text is the course outline and notes.

Leader – Charles G. Miller

## 7. History of Christian Beliefs

This class will examine the period between primitive Christianity (the group of changed individuals who went out into the world and started Christian communities) and the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD where Christian beliefs were documented. TEXT: Book of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles. (Bring your Bible)

Leader – Dr. Allen Barnes

## 8. Heritage of The United Methodist Church

The class will explore the fascinating United Methodist story from Wesley's time to today. Students will learn about John and Charles Wesley, the United Methodist movement in America and how to share our faith heritage with others. TEXT: *To be announced*

Leader – Hal Costley

## 9. Clown Ministry

Come and experience the exciting ministry of clowns! If you've ever wanted to paint your face, put on oversized shoes, outrageous outfits; and share your love of Christ, come and join Carol for a fun filled weekend! TEXT: No text required. Bring your imagination

Leader – Carol Sanger

## 10. Discover God's Call

This class is a place for Lay Servants to explore their spiritual gifts and talents while they work on God's call in their lives. TEXT: *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts - A Personal Inventory Method*, by Kenneth Cain Kinghorn and *How God Can Use You Where You Are* by Gus Gustafson. Leader

Leader – Doris Hedrick

## 11. Exploring Our Spiritual Gifts

An interactive, fun, informative, relational and experiential course designed to help you better understand your spiritual hardwiring and the impact your unique spiritual gifts have upon relationships and your ministry within the body of Christ. Prerequisite: Complete spiritual gifts self-assessment (\$10.00) prior to class. Inventories may be obtained by contacting Linda Young (class instructor) at [linda4thegoodlife@cox.net](mailto:linda4thegoodlife@cox.net). You can pay Linda directly for the inventory at the beginning of the class.

Leader – Rev. Linda Young

## 12. I Love to Tell the Story

In this class participants will learn different approaches to telling Bible stories. They will study techniques for learning and "fleshing out" stories from Scripture and contemporary events. The participants will tell short stories and have lots of feedback to enhance their storytelling experience. The class includes a resource list for further exploration. TEXT: *Dancing with Words* by Ray Buckley

Leaders – Mechelle Beauchamp & Roy Bauschatz

### **13. Knowing Your Community**

A Look at the Community around Your Church - Growing churches know their neighbors! It is essential that lay leaders understand the communities around their churches in order to plan ministries to reach those folks. This class will expose you to tools available for identifying your neighbors and their needs. TEXT: Demographics information for the churches of each attendee will be provided by the leader.

Leader – John Nelson

### **14. Authentic Outreach**

This is a step-by-step process that gives Christians a new perspective on evangelism as a process that is part of discipleship and the joy and adventure of being part of God's Plan. It demonstrates a "listening" and "asking" communication style vs. a "telling" and "confronting" style. Christians should learn how to overcome their hesitations and share their faith with confidence and gentleness. Text: *Authentic Outreach*, purchased at first class session or by ordering from [mail@TheEvangelismInstitute.org](mailto:mail@TheEvangelismInstitute.org). Mention Blackstone in the correspondence or call 804.754.7720.

Leader – Stuart Holt

### **15. Planning Lay Servant Training Programs**

What leads to really awesome training? What are the guidelines for developing training? Where do we start? What do we avoid? This is a hands-on course involving the nuts and bolts of setting up training. Text: None

Leader – Joyce Duncan

### **16. Prison Ministry**

One out of every 100 adults in our country is behind bars but God still loves them. Are you willing to bring His love to them or to help them experience Christian love as they re-enter society when they are released? This workshop will help you identify ways that you can fulfill Mathew 25. TEXT: Provided (Cost of Copies \$10)

Leaders – Louise Jennings & Jim Templeton

### **17. Puppet Ministry**

Learn another way of reaching your congregation by creating puppets to express the stories of the Bible. Bring your creativity and joy to this unique course. TEXT: No text required. Bring your imagination.

Leaders – Rev. Gail & Dan Dietz

### **18. Understanding Men's Ministry**

Understanding Men's Ministry is designed to help you plan and implement a ministry to the men in your church that will not fail. Based upon the bestselling book *No Man Left Behind* by Patrick Morley, David Delk, and Brett Clemmer, this course includes all the tools you'll need to get trained and train others.

Prerequisite – Read Textbook *No Man Left Behind*

Leader – Gilbert Hanke, Director of Men's Ministries General Commission on United Methodist Men

Registration Lay Servants Academy  
 Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center  
 Blackstone, VA February 24-26, 2012

Enter Course Number >>First Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Third Choice \_\_\_\_\_ (only need 1)

Or Mini Course Letter from Page 3

First Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Third Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Fourth Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Fifth Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Sixth Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Same cost as last year if you register early**

Full Registration received before January 20 \$170 \_\_\_\_\_ after January 20<sup>th</sup> \$187 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday/Sunday Registration before January 20` \$120 \_\_\_\_\_ after January 20<sup>th</sup> \$129 \_\_\_\_\_

**Or new this year, Mini-Courses**

Full Cost Fri-Sun for 5 Mini-Courses received by January 20 \$165 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday/Sunday Cost for Mini-Courses received by January 20 \$115 \_\_\_\_\_

After January 20, 2012 or if you want to select specific meals, overnight stay, or mini-classes – Check each item below

**February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Friday Supper \$10.20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friday Room \$48.18 \_\_\_\_\_

**February 25<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday Breakfast \$6.85 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday Lunch \$8.30 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday Supper \$10.20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday Room \$48.18 \_\_\_\_\_

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday Breakfast \$6.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday Lunch \$8.30 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conference Fee \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Or Mini- Courses \$6 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

If registering for the child care, please call the Conference Center for Cyndi Schnell at (434)292-5308 or Lay Servant Academy Director, David Bailey (804)338-3168 before January 20<sup>th</sup>

Make Check Payable to Virginia Conference UMC  
 Send The Completed Form And Full Costs In A Check To:  
 Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center, 707 Fourth Street, Blackstone, VA 23824

Check or payment amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY SPECIAL NEEDS (Please Print or Type)

ROOMMATE PREFERENCE (by name): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Housing Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

ANY Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 10, 2012**

Registrations may be cancelled prior to February 10, 2012 for full refund. After February 10, 2012 a refund may be made less program fees. Contact the conference center by mail, e-mail, telephone or by FAX for further information.

(Please print or type this information)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church & District \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church Position \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT Cyndi Schnell: Telephone: 434-292-5308; E-mail: [CyndiSchnell@vumac.org](mailto:CyndiSchnell@vumac.org); FAX: 434-292-1212